

IN THE DRAWINGS

A proposed change to Fig. 9 is submitted herewith, with a
Submission of Proposed Drawing Amendments.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

A Submission of Proposed Drawing Amendments is attached with amendments to Fig. 9 to label it as related art.

Claims 1-16 have been canceled in favor of new claims 17-44. Support for the subject matter of the new claims is provided at least in the original claims and Figs. 1, 5A, and 5B and their accompanying descriptions in the specification. New claims 17-44 have been drafted to avoid the issues underlying the objection and 35 USC 101 rejections applied to the original claims.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 14 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Tanaka (US 6,473,796) in view of Anderson et al. (US 7,107,516). Claims 2, 3, 5, 10-12, 15, and 16 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Anderson and Nishida (US 6,040,831). Claims 7 and 13 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Anderson and Ejima et al. (US 2003/0189636). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 17-44, the Applicants respectfully traverse based on the points set forth below.

Claim 17 defines a network camera system in which a terminal device displays an image obtained from a selected one of a plurality of cameras and outputs real-time audio collected by a microphone of the selected camera. The Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of the applied references, considered alone or together, fail to disclose or suggest this subject matter.

Tanaka discloses providing image change information to a client control apparatus 108 when a change in image sensing conditions of a camera 101 (e.g., at least one out of a pan angle, a tilt angle, a zoom ratio, a movement of an object, and exposure position) is detected. When no change in the image sensing conditions of the camera 101 is detected, the image information is not provided to client control apparatus 108 (see Tanaka col. 6, lines 15-29).

The Office Action acknowledges that Tanaka does not disclose a network camera having a microphone for collecting audio associated with an image viewed by the camera (see Office Action page 5, second paragraph). To overcome this deficiency, the Office Action proposes that Anderson teaches a camera that can record audio (see page 5, third paragraph, lines 2-4).

However, the Applicants note that Anderson discloses a camera that generates an HTML file of images and audio recorded

by the camera (see Anderson col. 4, lines 9-11, and col. 8, lines 16-20). The recorded images and audio may be reproduced on a PC 112 by retrieving the generated HTML file from the camera and executing the HTML file with a browser of PC 112 (see col. 4, lines 9-15).

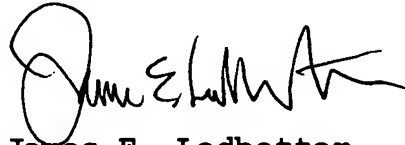
Thus, Anderson is directed to reproducing both the image data temporally stored in a memory of the digital camera and the voice information stored in association with the image data. Anderson does not teach or suggest a terminal device that displays an image obtained from a selected one of a plurality of cameras and outputs real-time audio collected by a microphone of the selected camera. Nishida and Ejima are not cited in the Office Action for supplementing the teachings of Anderson in this regard.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the applied references, considered individually or in combination, do not anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by new claim 17. Independent claim 31 similarly recites the above-mentioned subject matter of the apparatus defined by claim 17, but with respect to a method. Therefore, allowance of claims 17 and 31 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James E. Ledbetter', with a stylized, cursive script.

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

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JEL/DWW/att

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FIG. 9
RELATED ART

